

Please amend claims 3-8 as follows:

3. (Amended) A process according to claim 1, wherein the catalyst is present in an amount ranging from about 5 ppb to about 5000 ppb, preferably from 100 ppb to about 1000 pbb, on dry substance of starch.

4. (Amended) A process according to claim 1, wherein the divalent copper ions are enhanced by one or more of calcium, vanadium, manganese, iron or tungsten ions.

5. (Amended) A process according to claim 1, wherein the starch is a potato starch or tapioca starch.

6. (Amended) A process according to claim 1, wherein the hydrogen peroxide is used in an amount ranging from 0.01 to 5.0 wt%, preferably from 0.05 to 2.5 wt% on dry substance of starch.

7. (Amended) A process according to claim 1, wherein the derivative of the starch is a cationic, anionic or amphoteric starch.

8. (Amended) An oxidized starch obtainable by a process according to claim 1.

Please add new claims 11-18, as follows:

11. A binder in paper coatings or surface coatings comprising an oxidized starch according to claim 1.

12. An adhesive comprising an oxidized starch according to claim 1.